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REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE  
EXAMINING GROUP 2131

**PATENT**  
5181-70000/P5196

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: 09/653,609

Filed: August 31, 2000

Inventors:

Slaughter, et al.

Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD  
FOR SECURE MESSAGE-  
BASED LEASING OF  
RESOURCES IN A  
DISTRIBUTED  
COMPUTING  
ENVIRONMENT

§ Examiner: Abrishamkar, Kaveh  
§ Group/Art Unit: 2131  
§ Atty. Dkt. No: 5181-70000

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

Robert C. Kowert

Printed Name

June 30, 2005

Signature

Date

**RESPONSE TO FINAL ACTION OF  
MAY 4, 2005**

**Mail Stop AF**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the Final Action of May 4, 2005, to further highlight why the application is in condition for allowance.

Please amend the case as listed below.